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UNCLAS KUWAIT 001612

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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STATE PASS TO USTR P. BURKHEAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [KIPR](#) [KU](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR URGES GOVERNOR TO CONTINUE CRACKING  
DOWN ON IPR VIOLATIONS

(SBU) During a May 7 meeting with Lt. General Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al-Fares, the Governor of Hawalli, the largest of Kuwait's six governorates, the Ambassador stressed that despite Kuwait's improving intellectual property rights (IPR) record, more still needed to be done. (Note: Kuwait's Special 301 designation was upgraded from Priority Watch List to Watch List in April. End note.) The Ambassador noted that counterfeit goods were still widely available in Hawalli, and urged the Governor to take active measures to prevent the sale of these materials. Al-Fares promised to continue working closely with the Ministry of Interior's Criminal Investigation Division and the Ministry of Information to crack down on IPR violations in his governorate.

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